

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Method of producing a composite nonwoven for receiving and storing liquids ~~or the like~~, comprising the steps of:
providing a carrier nonwoven, which is e.g. hydraulically needled to consolidate it, and a pulp layer, such as a wood pulp fibre layer applied to the consolidated;
consolidating the carrier nonwoven and brought into secure contact with same, characterised in that;
applying a thin intermediate microfibre layer is applied to the consolidated carrier nonwoven, e.g., by means of the meltblown process, and the;
applying loose pulp fibre layer is first applied fibres to this the intermediate layer; and everything is interconnected
interconnecting at least the pulp fibres with, the intermediate layer.
2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the pulp fibre layer ~~is connected~~ fibres are interconnected to the intermediate microfibre layer and additionally to the carrier nonwoven by means of hydrodynamic needling.
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that to the wood pulp layer is applied~~ further comprising applying a fourth layer as a cover layer

~~and everything is together subjected to hydrodynamic needling for connection purposes to the pulp fibres before the step of interconnecting.~~

4. (currently amended) Device for accomplishing the method according to claim

1, ~~characterised comprising~~ in that the a continuous plant comprising firstly:

a web-laying device ~~such as a carding machine (1-4) or a spunbonded fabric system to produce a carrier nonwoven, then, in order to reduce the loss of pulp fibres in the subsequent consolidation,~~

a meltblowing device (7) provided downstream of the web-laying device to apply a fine intermediate layer formed from microfibres on the carrier nonwoven, then a device (8)

an air-lay device downstream of the melt blowing device to apply this pulp fibre (wood pulp) layer fibres to the fine intermediate layer, and finally

a water needling device (11) provided downstream of the air-lay device to connect at least the pulp fibres to the microfibres and possibly also the fibres of the carrier layer.

5. (currently amended) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that it is ~~supplemented by further comprising a device, such as a carding machine (1', 3') or spunbonded fabric system, for applying a cover layer to the pulp fibre layer of the composite nonwoven, followed only then by fibres provided between the air-lay device and the above-mentioned water needling device (11).~~

6. (currently amended) Device according to claim 4, characterised in that ~~following the web-laying device (1-4) for the carrier nonwoven, first of all further~~

comprising another water needling device for pre-consolidating the carrier nonwoven, there is a water needling device (6) which is followed in line by provided upstream of the meltblowing device (7).

7. (new) Device according to claim 3, characterised in that the web-laying device is a carding machine.
8. (new) Device according to claim 3, characterised in that the web-laying device is a spunbonded fabric system.
9. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of providing the carrier nonwoven comprises providing a carded nonwoven.
10. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of providing the carrier nonwoven comprises providing a spunbonded nonwoven.
11. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of applying loose pulp fibres comprises an air-laying pulp fibres on the intermediate layer.
12. (new) Method according to claim 11, characterised in that the steps of the method are carried out in a continuous system.
13. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the steps of the method are carried out in a continuous system.